

NOTE CONCERNING  
*FESTUCA HENRIQUESII*  
(GRAMINEAE) IN  
NORTHERN PORTUGAL

The species *Festuca henriquesii* Hackel (Gramineae), first described in 1883, is endemic to Portugal. In various floras and subsequent publications, namely Coutinho (1939), Sampaio (1946), Litardière (1952), and Tutin et al. (1980), the location of this species has been given as restricted solely to the Serra da Estrela, a mountain range in northeastern Portugal. Little information is available concerning its ecology, except that specimens have generally been collected from high places in this mountain range.

Recently, however, I recorded this species from a grassland area in the Serra do Gerês, in northern Portugal (Hale, in press). I had believed that this was the first record for the species outside of the Serra da Estrela range. The location, in grazed grassland within an area generally of ericaceous shrubland, is known as “Lagoas” because of two small nearby lakes. The plants were growing on an acid soil over granitic parent material at an altitude of 1,150 m (grid reference X326 071; Carta Militar 31).

Further investigation revealed, however, that this record for the species in the Serra do Gerês was not unique. Besides two records from the Serra da Estrela, three specimens of *F. henriquesii* exist in the Herbarium of the Institute of Botany “Dr. Gonçalo Sampaio” in Porto, collected from the Serra do Gerês and nearby areas (Table 1). Despite the existence of these specimens, however, this species appears not to have been previously reported from these mountain ranges.

It is clear from these records that *Festuca henriquesii* is not restricted to the Serra da Estrela; the range includes the serras of Gerês, Peneda, and Barroso. The species might be a glacial relict restricted to a few mountain ranges and not noticed before outside of the Serra da Estrela; alternatively, its distribution may be expanding. In view of the apparently discontinuous distribution, these other mountain ranges being nearly 200 km from that

TABLE 1. *F. henriquesii* records outside Estrela.

Location	Habitat	Date of Collection
Lamas do Homem, Gerês	Dry ground	6/7/1948
Barca do Homem, Gavieira, Peneda	Grassland	-/7/1961
S. Fins, Montalegre, Barroso	Roadside	11/8/1978
Lagoas, Gerês	Grassland	6/7/1984

of Estrela, it is quite possible that the species might turn up in other intervening mountain ranges in the north of Portugal.

I thank the staff of the Herbarium of the Institute of Botany “Dr. Gonçalo Sampaio,” Porto, for confirming the identification of the “Lagoas” specimen and for access to the previous records of the species.

LITERATURE CITED

COUTINHO, A. X. P. 1939. Flora de Portugal (Plantas Vasculares), 2nd edition. Bertrand (Irmãos) Lda., Lisbon.

HALE, W. H. G. Variation in species composition within and between some mountain grasslands in the Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês. *Agronomia lusitana* 43 (in press).

LITARDIÈRE, R. DE. 1952. Contribution à l'étude des *Festuca* du Portugal. *Agronomia lusitana* 14: 31-51.

SAMPAIO, G. 1946. Flora Portuguesa, 2nd edition. Imprensa Moderna Lda., Porto.

TUTIN, T. G., V. H. HEYWOOD, N. A. BURGESS, D. H. VALENTINE, S. M. WALTERS & D. A. WEBB (editors). 1980. *Flora Europaea*, Volume V. Cambridge Univ. Press, London.

—W. H. G. Hale, *Instituto de Botânica, Rua do Campo Alegre 1191, 4100 Porto, Portugal. Present address: School of Environmental Science, University of Bradford, Bradford BD7 1DP, U.K.*